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P.O. Box 10,  
P.I.

2077

# Central *Student Church*

*Manila, Philippine Islands*



*A Training Class for Teachers and Leaders*

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*Board of Foreign Missions  
Methodist Episcopal Church  
150 Fifth Ave., New York*

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Central Student Church Members Starting Out to Keep Sunday Afternoon Teaching and Preaching Appointments in the Villages

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## *A Church For, By, and Of Students*

Central Student Church, located in the heart of the educational district of Manila, Philippine Islands, is unique in the Pacific and perhaps unique anywhere outside the United States in that its membership is composed wholly of advanced students in college, normal school and high school, and of many of their teachers and professors. They are leaders-to-be in the economic, professional, and religious life of the Philippines, for the Philippines is a land of youth. The leaders in all walks of life are young men and young women; it is almost always so in a virile, growing country.

These are the young people who have forever broken with the superstitions which in the name of Roman Catholicism were implanted in the Islands centuries ago and

still remain in the thought-life of the masses. Were there not for these potential leaders such spiritual guidance as the Central Student Church, maintained by the Methodist Episcopal Church, and such as missionaries of this and of other evangelical denominations are able to provide, these students and with them the entire leadership of the Islands would be drifting to atheism or agnosticism.

Central Student Church seats in its present auditorium 250 persons. But every Sunday during the school year 400 young men and women fill it for church service. And the roll of members of the church contains more than 1,000 names—college students from homes throughout the archipelago, high school boys and girls, teachers-in-training in normal institutions, college graduates in leading positions in the city, college and high school teachers. The intellectual attainments of this church membership are perhaps unsurpassed elsewhere on any mission field.

During the past eleven years one thousand students from Manila schools and colleges have presented themselves at the altar of Central Student Church. In 1925, twenty-one college students here dedicated their lives to full-time active Christian service.

### Training in Service

The most important service of the Church is in training in the essentials of Christian leadership, since college men quickly assume positions of great influence in all walks of life throughout the Islands. Professor Isidor Panlasigui, of the University of the Philippines (center of front row of cover photo) is the leader of forty chosen young men and young women in the Training Department of the Church. This includes a three-year teacher training course, and a course in lay leadership.

On Sunday afternoon five teams of ten students each preach, sing and teach in outlying communities. There are services by students in the leper hospital, the two reformatories, the penitentiary, the orphanage, and the



Left to Right—Cirilo B. Perez, Librarian, Bureau of Science; Chairman of Board of Stewards, Central Student Church. Mrs. Maria Valdez-Ventura, Assistant Professor of Geography, University of the Philippines; Sunday School Teacher and Member of Official Board. Mrs. Consuelo Valdez-Fonacier, Field Secretary of the W. C. T. U.; Local Preacher. Prof. Jorge Bocobo, Chairman, Dean of the College of Law, University of the Philippines; Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Central Student Church.

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general hospital. The students also maintain two dialect Sunday schools, two dialect preaching services, and a junior church. Each Sunday morning the Church bus calls at the School for the Blind and carries a load of little blind, deaf and dumb children to Sunday school where special teachers are provided.

During vacation periods many of the students do effective evangelism; one College of Education student organized a church last year, a law student organized an Epworth League, others conducted Daily Vacation Bible Schools, preached, organized Campfire Girls units, or taught Sunday schools.

The present national prohibition oratorical champion, Juan Cabildo, is one of several prohibition leaders trained in Central Student Church. Roman Cruz, another student, organized mission work at the leper hospital. At open forums in the Church hundreds of students are discussing the leading social, economic and moral problems of the Islands.

### **Athletics and Recreation**

In so far as the present cramped quarters of the Church will permit, recreational and athletic facilities are provided for these hundreds of students. Wholesome fun and frolic are furnished through the monthly "Friendly Social." The Epworth League, the dormitory organiza-

tions and the Campfire Girls have excellent social and recreational programs, so that scarcely a week passes without some event that students may enjoy in a Christian atmosphere. The "Central Woman's Club" is conducted by the young married women and the professional women of the Church, and cares for the social life of this important and rapidly growing group that has identified itself with the life of the institution.

### **Christian Homes for Students**

Two dormitories, or "student homes," are maintained in connection with the Central Student Church. They are designed especially to provide a home-like residence and a Christian residence for students at Manila colleges who come from communities at a distance or on other islands. Hugh-Wilson Hall, a Christian home for eighty college women, is one of the finest dormitories in the Archipelago. The dormitory for men and boys houses one hundred col-



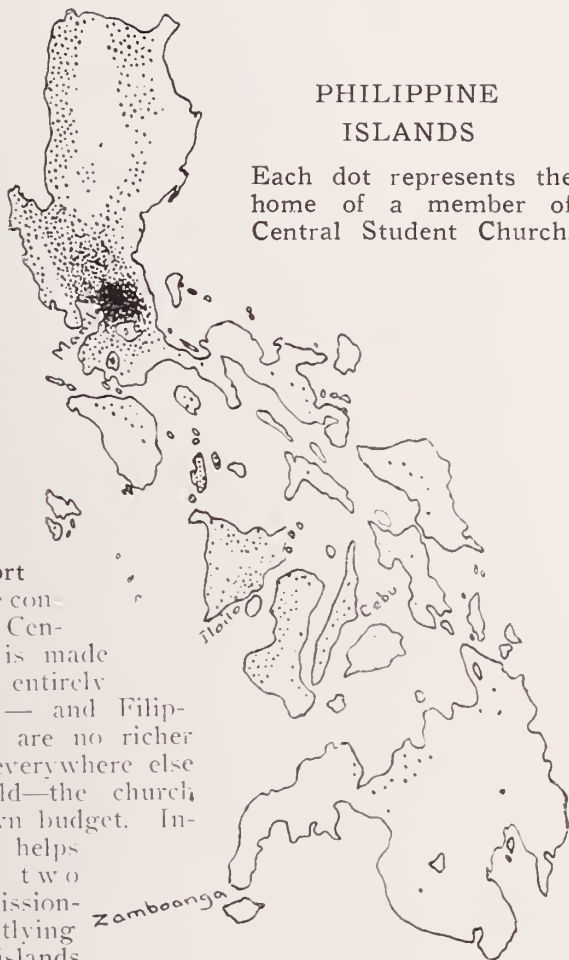
lege students. During three months of 1925 fifty of the men in this dormitory united with Central Church. These dormitories are a connecting link between the work of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Manila and in the provinces, and they send back to the more remote towns and villages many leaders trained in Central Church.

### Self-Support

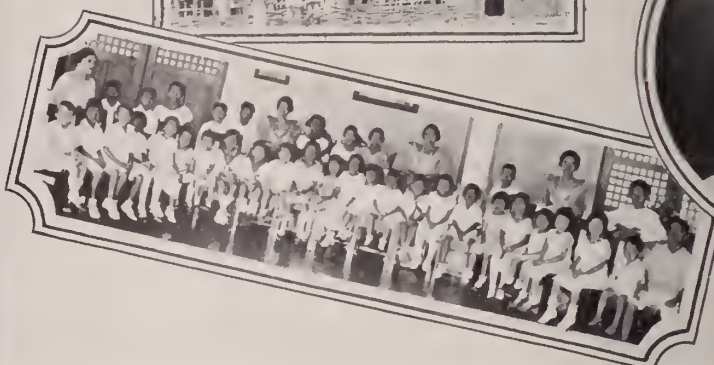
Although the congregation of Central Church is made up almost entirely of students — and Filipino students are no richer than those everywhere else in the world—the church raises its own budget. In addition, it helps to support two national missionaries in outlying and remote islands

### PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

Each dot represents the home of a member of Central Student Church.







Public Building, Manila  
Home of a Student  
The Kindergarten

Busine  
P





et, Manila  
Ilasigui

Baseball

The Present Church  
Government University

## *Manila, Student Center*

Manila is the student mecca of the Philippine Islands. With more than 5,000 public schools and several hundred high schools, the Archipelago has under American occupation become the most literate part of all Asia except Japan. And every boy and girl who graduates from a high school on any one of the 3,000 islands wants to go to Manila to complete his or her education, for education brings leadership in public and private life.

The University of the Philippines enrolls 5,000 students coming from almost every inhabitable island of the group. Three other large government universities, a government Normal School, and thirty-four high schools are housed in the city, most of them in the educational center where the Student Church carries on its ministry.

These government universities and high schools enroll upward of 30,000 students—30,000 future leaders of the Islands. The whole Orient presents no finer student group than are here concentrated in a part of one city. In addition to these students, 25,000 boys and girls are enrolled in the city's primary schools, and almost all of them expect to continue through the higher institutions of learning.

### **A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL SAYS:**

"The Methodist Central Church of Manila is a students' church for the reason that almost all of its members are students. Because of this peculiar situation it plays an important role in the moral development of a large number of students in Manila who come from the different provinces of the archipelago."

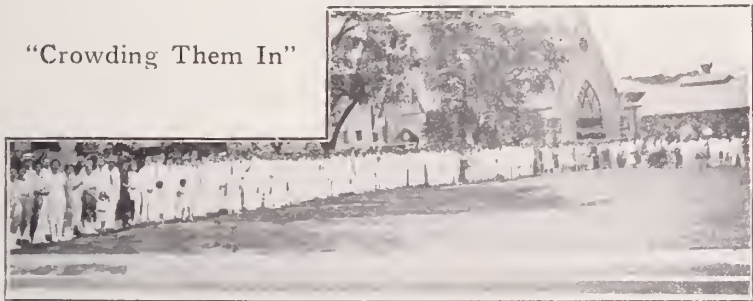
—Hon. Lupo Biteng, member of the House of Representatives, Philippine Islands.

## *New Church Building Proposed*

A church building that seats only 250 people and into which only 400 can be crowded at a Sunday service with "standing room only" is hardly equipped to minister effectively to more than a comparative few of Manila's 30,000 students. Were there adequate facilities at Central Student Church many times 400 would crowd to its services, many times 1,000 would be upon its membership roll. It is estimated that at least 25,000 of these 30,000 students have definitely severed their relation to the Roman Catholic Church in the Philippines and are ready to hear the message of the evangelical church.

To serve more nearly the student group that crowds its doors and that other group ready to listen to its teaching, Central Student Church has undertaken to erect a new structure. In addition to the large auditorium and the galleries, it will be equipped with rooms for a departmentalized Sunday school, for an Epworth League, a Woman's Club, Campfire Girls, Boy Scouts, and the Men's Brotherhood. The edifice will be of Spanish Romanesque architecture, in keeping with the educational and public buildings in its immediate neighborhood.

"Crowding Them In"



## **In The Educational Center**

The new church building—

- will be on one of the finest church sites in Manila
- will be one block from the University of the Philippines
- will be three blocks from the normal school
- will be six blocks from the Walled City, the most congested student center in Manila.
- will be directly across the street from the new site of the National Capitol
- will front toward Taft avenue, the finest boulevard in the city, and dedicated to educational purposes
- will be within walking distance of thirty-two student dormitories.

## **Cost Will Be \$50,000**

The sum of \$50,000 is required to erect the new and enlarged and adequately-equipped Central Student Church on this site. It is expected that the normal running expenses of the parish will be met in the future, as heretofore, from the subscriptions of the student-members, and that once the new edifice is erected there will be no mon-  
eys required from the Board of Foreign Missions for its support.

World Service apportionment credit will be given for gifts toward this enterprise, if the donor so desires. Remittances should state clearly that they are designated for the Central Student Church, Manila, Philippine Islands, and should be sent to Morris W. Ehnes, treasurer, Board of Foreign Missions, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

# *The Philippines and Oriental Leadership*

The Philippine Islands have a unique position of influence upon the Orient. And Manila is the center of the whole progressive movement of the Islands. Whoever or whatever influences the thought of the students, the leaders-to-be in Manila, influences through the years the whole of the Orient. So that the importance of the ideas and ideals radiating from Central Student Church can scarcely be exaggerated.

The Filipino population numbers about 10,000,000. They range from the wild unconquered mountain tribes to those civilized groups in towns and cities which centuries ago came under the influence and teaching of Latin priests. Three hundred fifty thousand Mohammedan Moros, 50,000 Chinese, and 8,000 Americans, exclusive of troops, live on these islands.

Since the Philippines have been under the protection of the American flag, thousands of schools have been opened, sanitary measures have been taught, economic resources have been fostered, and a veritable social revolution has taken place. Perhaps no other part of the world has ever been so completely transformed in so short a period of time. All the Orient has been watching this experiment in American benevolence. Delegations and commissions from India, from China, from Japan, and from Malaysia have visited the archipelago, examining schools, hospitals, agricultural regions, and government offices to learn how what is needed elsewhere in the Orient is carried on in the Philippines. This demonstration of benevo-



lence made by the United States in the Islands has done more to make Asia understand and appreciate our friendship than have all the diplomats and all the resolutions of affection since 1900.

### When Independence Comes

Whether or not the United States relinquishes her government in the Philippine Islands, some republican form of organization will be maintained. What kind of government will it be? What kind of democracy will rule? That will depend almost wholly upon the type of leaders developed during the intervening years. Central Student Church and the whole Methodist Episcopal Church believe that a **Christian** leadership must be raised up if the future government is to stand, and if its influence in Oriental life and thought is to be permanent. And that leadership must be Christian not in name only, but in its thought, its actions, its decisions upon all national and international questions.

To the training of these Christian leaders-to-be Central Student Church in Manila has dedicated itself. Nowhere the world over is there being rendered a Christian service that augurs more for the lasting happiness and peace of the Pacific.

### BISHOP CHARLES E. LOCKE SAYS:

"If the Philippines are the center of interest for the vast far-eastern population, then the city of Manila is the cynosure of millions of eyes, and the evangelical churches of America, with gifts of money and of workers, should carry forward enterprises in Manila commensurate with our opportunity and obligation. . . . Our fine little Central Student Church is doing excellent work, but it is constantly hindered by the limits of our meagre accommodations. . . . We are simply dallying on the edges when we should plunge into the very heart of evangelizing this infant nation."

Board of Foreign Missions,

Methodist Episcopal Church,

150 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Gentlemen: For the building of Central Student Church  
Manila, P. I., I will give the sum of .....  
dollars, payable as follows:.....

Name.....

Address.....

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## 'A N N U I T I E S'

The annuity plan of the Board of Foreign Missions makes it possible for a donor to secure an investment and a guaranteed income, probably above prevailing interest rates, and provides at the same time a gift to help advance the Kingdom of God. Such a gift, drawing income for the donor during his or her life, can be designated for Central Student Church, Manila, P. I., or any other work of the Board of Foreign Missions. Write for full information to Morris W. Ehnes, treasurer, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York City.



